

Unfinished 821

Chapter 821

The two specifically chose a seat from which they could enjoy the performance on stage. Following that, they ordered a few dishes which they had not tried before. The experience of dining there was atmospherically great. They were able to enjoy the deliciously and delicately prepared dishes with their loved one seated in front of them as they listened to the beautifully played classical tunes.

Who would not enjoy having a meal there?

By the end of their meal, Olivia looked up at Eugene and finally asked, "Do you know Christoff Stevenson?"

Hearing that name, he was caught by surprise. "Christoff Stevenson? He's the owner of Samuel Court. What's the matter? Did you see him today?"

She replied, "Yes. He came to my store earlier."

"What did he say?"

"He didn't say much and only ordered a custom-made suit there, but he knows about our relationship. I'm just worried that he might have come to take revenge on you," she expressed.

A solemn Eugene suggested, "I don't care if he wants revenge. I'm only afraid that he might come after you. How about I send over a few bodyguards tomorrow?"

"No need for that. If he had intended to try something, today would have been a great chance for him. Since he didn't do so, maybe he's not planning on targeting me. That's why I called you. I think you should be more careful about your own safety."

He reassured her, "Don't worry about me. Unless he has a death wish, he wouldn't be so dumb as to come after me."

After hearing his words, she reminded him, "I'm sure you're right, but a toad doesn't bite and is still disliked by people."

Eugene acknowledged her concern. "Alright. Call me if he comes to your store again. I'm intrigued to see what he's up to."

Olivia turned him down. "It's alright. He only ordered a suit from my store and paid in full, so maybe I'm the one overthinking this situation."

Meanwhile, at Road Enterprises, since Alex was still in a meeting, he instructed Jewel to retrieve a document from his office. When she arrived there, she saw a secretary standing at the entrance to the president's office being all sneaky and suspicious.

Due to her throat condition, Jewel was used to taking care of her vocal cord by not speaking much. Without meaning to frighten her, the secretary was scared out of her wits when Jewel merely tapped on her shoulder.

"Ahh!" The secretary looked at Jewel in shock. "W-What are you doing?"

Looking at the person before her, Jewel noticed that the secretary was Mary Whitlock. She recalled that Mary seemed to have eyes for Alex, but he was currently in a meeting. No way, she doesn't know that. So, what is she doing in front of Alex's office?

Jewel piped up with difficulty, "What are you doing?"

While motioning to the file in her hand, Mary answered, "I'm here to deliver a document, but Mr. Road isn't here, so I was debating whether to enter the office. You almost scared me to death."

Jewel gazed straight into Mary's eyes and asked, "So, are you going in?"

"Mr. Road isn't here, so what's the use of doing so?" As Mary was saying that, she returned to the secretary's office.

Feeling puzzled, Jewel stared at Mary's back as she left. When she saw that Mary had already made friends with the other secretaries, she did not bother about it anymore and returned to the office to retrieve the document before sending it to the meeting room.

In the afternoon, she heard Mary's voice when she was in the bathroom. "When I went to deliver some documents to Mr. Road today, I stood outside the office door, hesitating on whether to wait for Mr. Road to return or just place it inside his office, but then the mute came and tapped my shoulder. She almost scared me to death."

Then came another voice, which belonged to Tiffany Alinsky. "Didn't you say you wanted to meet Mr. Road? Of course, you have to go in when he's there. What's the use of sending those documents when he's in a meeting?"

Mary answered, "I know. I just forgot that he was in a meeting. That touch on my shoulder almost made me soil my pants. I don't understand what Mr. Road was thinking when he arranged for a mute to be in the office. She can't speak, nor can she help him with anything, so what's the purpose of her being here?"

Chapter 822

"Were you there that day when Mr. Road's mother came that day?" Tiffany asked. "She kept asking questions about Jewel Fenton. Maybe she disagrees with how Mr. Road handled the situation, too."

"Exactly. Just get rid of her quickly. I don't mind losing to you. After all, you're prettier and more capable than me, but it will be so embarrassing for me if I lose to Jewel, who can't even string a coherent sentence herself!" Mary exclaimed.

Tiffany sighed helplessly. "Well, what can we do since Mr. Road likes her?"

While they were happily chatting away, she pushed the bathroom door open and met Jewel's sharp eyes. Immediately, she froze on the spot, and her mind went blank as she stopped in her tracks awkwardly.

Mary went on with her criticisms, utterly unaware that the topic of their discussion was standing right outside, saying, "Yeah. She's neither gentile nor pretty, and she isn't even ladylike. Furthermore, she's a mute..."

She walked out while talking and caught sight of Tiffany's expression. She quickly sensed something amiss, so she followed Tiffany's gaze and shut her mouth with her snap when she saw Jewel's face.

Mary's heart sank to the bottom of her stomach at the sight. Oh, no! she thought.

There was nothing more frightening than being caught red-handed when talking behind others' backs.

Jewel stared at them with piercing eyes as she struggled to force out a sentence from her throat. "I can talk. Whatever it is, it has nothing to do with you."

Both of them didn't dare to reply as they lowered their heads and wanted to leave by slipping past her, but she wouldn't allow them to leave just like that.

She took a step to the side, stopped them without a word, and merely glared at them with her sharp eyes.

Her cold gaze was like a dagger drenched in poison that was slowly approaching them and Mary was so scared that she could feel her legs wobbling.

Why is her gaze so frightening? Mary thought in fright. She didn't dare to look at Jewel as she stuttered, "I-I'm sorry."

Jewel looked away from Mary and focused on Tiffany, who hurriedly apologized, "I'm sorry."

After that, Jewel reminded them composedly, "Stop criticizing others. It's despicable!"

"Okay," Tiffany mumbled, grabbed Mary's hand, and fled. "My god, she's so terrifying," she whispered, scurrying away.

"She is," Mary agreed. "She's always appearing out of nowhere like this that I sometimes wonder if she's a ghost. Otherwise, why doesn't she make a noise when she walks? Scary!"

Tiffany hurriedly threw a look behind them. "Shh! Lower your voice, or she will hear you!"

Then, the two women returned to the secretary department in a hurry. Meanwhile, Jewel washed her hands and had just stepped out of the bathroom when her cell phone in her pocket started ringing.

When she checked the caller ID, she saw that it was an unknown number ending with 6666. Due to the fact that she couldn't speak, she would usually send text messages instead of making calls.

Nonetheless, she decided to pick up this call after considering it. It seemed unlikely that this person had called the wrong number using such an interesting number, right? she thought. Moreover, I'm not a mute!

After she accepted the call, she tried her best to speak normally. "Hello?"

On the other end of the line, a middle-aged woman said, "You're Jewel Fenton, aren't you?"

"Yes, and may I know who's this?" Jewel asked.

"I'm Alex's mother," the woman responded. "I know you can't really talk, so just listen. I'm in Seven Degrees Cafe, which is located near your office, and I have some things to tell you. So free up some time and come over. I'll be waiting here for you."

The situation dawned on Jewel, and she answered, "Okay."

"Don't inform Alex about this and just come here alone," Stefanie Mayer said and hung up straight away.

A puzzled Jewel wondered, Why is Alex's mother looking for me? And she even wants me to keep this from him.

Regardless, she didn't have the time to ponder over the question.

Chapter 823

After Jewel left the washroom, she didn't return to the president's office. Instead, she headed straight for Seven Degrees Cafe as Stefanie had instructed. When she arrived, a waiter led her to a private room.

Initially, she was a little formal when she met Stefanie and greeted her politely, "Hello, Mrs. Road."

Stefanie didn't move an inch from where she was sitting and merely lifted her eyes at Jewel without a word to gesture for her to take a seat.

Her unfriendly attitude struck Jewel by surprise as Jewel didn't understand the reason behind it.

She reassured herself in the next second, though. She's an elder, after all, and she's Alex's mother at that. So for his sake, I shouldn't pick on her without reason.

It wasn't easy for his mother to bring Alex up by herself, so Jewel wore a smile and took a seat with kind thoughts in her mind.

"Why did you ask me out, Mrs. Road?"

Although she tried her best to sound normal, she still sounded unpleasant to the ears. At least, when Stefanie heard her, her dislike for Jewel's voice was greater than others.

Stefanie regarded her coldly before she replied, "I don't know why you ended up in this situation that you are in today and I don't want to know either. Since this is the situation, you should have some self-awareness, though. Do you think that the Road Family will allow someone who can't even speak like a

normal person to be married into the family? How many times do you want me to say the same things to you? Alex arranged a position for you in the company because he feels sorry for you, not because

he's interested in you. Don't you feel that you can't be of help in any way at all? So today, I'm here to tell you this—get away from my son, the further, the better!"

Her tone was aggressive and didn't hide her apparent disdain for Jewel. In the meantime, Jewel's brows furrowed tightly. Maybe it was because she had felt the warmth from Ellen before that she reflexively carried the same hopes for Stefanie as well. This was especially so after she learned that Stefanie had raised Alex alone and admired the older woman even more.

However, this was where all the good impressions stopped.

She wondered how much disgust Stefanie had for her to say such terrible things to her as an elder who had been through so many challenges herself.

Also, she had no idea what made Stefanie have such resentment for her.

Whatever it was, the rose-tinted glasses she had for Stefanie were gone at this moment.

She thinks that I want to rise to the top with this opportunity, doesn't she? Jewel thought indignantly.

Anger shrouded her dark eyes as she responded, "I've never wanted anything from your son from the beginning until now!" Besides, your son is the one saying all those weird things! she thought angrily.

Stefanie waved her hand in frustration. "That's enough. You can stop talking. It's not like I understand what you're saying, anyway. I don't care what's on your mind, but I just want you to get away from my son. You'll never have my blessing to date him."

Jewel pursed her lips stubbornly as she fumed, She's looking down on me because I can't speak, isn't she?

Meanwhile, Stefanie glared at her with hateful eyes. "What are you looking at? Resign after you get back. If you sincerely care about Alex and don't want to sow discord between a mother and her son, you should devise an excuse and leave. This has been my attitude all along. Whether it was the past or now, whether you're Alex's bodyguard or secretary, I don't want you to be by his side. Do you understand me?"

Jewel met her gaze head-on and the look in her eyes turned from surprise to ice-cold. "I'll leave, but there's something I want to say. Alex said you brought him up by yourself, and I only have the utmost respect for you. Today, you really changed my opinion about you, though. It's unfortunate that he has a mother like you!"

After she spoke, she started to cough like her throat had caught fire all of a sudden. This was the first time that she had said so much.

Despite that, Stefanie took no notice of her discomfort or perhaps didn't care the slightest bit about others as she practically squawked in offense, "What did you say?"

Chapter 824

"I said that you're hateful!" Jewel said before she stood up to leave.

A furious Stefanie grabbed her. "Hold it right there, you! Who are you calling hateful? Is this how you speak to an elder?"

"Someone like you deserves no respect," Jewel replied as she enunciated each word clearly.

"You're the one clinging on to my son shamelessly!" Stefanie snapped.

Jewel snorted, "You think so highly of your son, huh. With a mother like you, your son would be a bachelor sooner or later!"

Stefanie was utterly enraged by Jewel's words as she raised her hand and swung it at Jewel's face, but Jewel stopped her mid-air. Despite her boiling fury and struggles, Stefanie could not break free from Jewel's grip.

Jewel fixed her cold, deadly gaze on her as she warned, "Don't start a fight, or it will be bad if you're hurt." Then, she shoved Jewel aside and stormed off.

Stefanie staggered backward from the force of Jewel's actions, but she didn't forget to curse at Jewel. "You should just forget about that idea. I'd rather die than let you date my son!"

However, Jewel didn't care about her anymore. Perhaps she had been too irritated and spoke so much that her throat felt like it was burning.

I'll ask Olivia to check it for me, she decided. I don't want my voice to be ruined again after spending so much effort to cure it.

In the meantime, Olivia and Eugene were in a restaurant and she was surprised to answer a call from Jewel. "Why are you calling me, Jewel?"

Jewel's raspy voice sounded from the phone. "Where are you, Olivia?"

"I'm eating in a restaurant. What happened to you, Jewel?" a worried Olivia asked.

"In that case, I'll wait for you in your studio," Jewel said shortly and hung up without further comment.

Olivia turned to Eugene and said, "Let's go. Jewel said she would be waiting for me in the studio. Somehow, I have a feeling that she's upset. Isn't she working in Alex's company?"

Eugene frowned slightly. "Alex's mom saw Jewel a few days ago. Could it be related to this?"

She became more anxious when she learned of that. "Let's check up on her quickly."

After he sent her back to her studio, he didn't rush back to his company and accompanied her to the studio instead.

When they saw Jewel, she seemed to be alright and she even stood up to greet them when she saw them. "Are you finished with lunch?"

"Yeah, we were," Olivia answered. "What brings you here? Don't you have work to do?"

Jewel pointed to her own throat. "My throat feels unwell."

That immediately caught Olivia's attention. "What happened? Let me take a look."

Then, Jewel swapped to sign language. 'Maybe it's because I talked too much.'

Olivia hurriedly used the torchlight feature from her phone to inspect her throat. "It's a little red and inflamed. How much did you say that made your throat inflamed?"

Jewel could feel the pain intensifying, so she didn't dare to speak as she continued in sign language, 'I didn't catch a break and finished speaking in one shot.'

Olivia asked in astonishment, "Who were you speaking with?"

Jewel stole a look at Eugene and didn't mention Stefanie. If Alex found out about this, he might think that she was complaining about his mother.

'No one. It was a conference.'

"Why do you need to speak at a conference?" Olivia asked.

Jewel deflected and changed the subject by asking in sign language, 'Can I recover my voice?'

"I'll prescribe something for you and include some anti-inflammatory medication," Olivia replied. Then, after Jewel nodded, Olivia turned to Eugene. "Jewel is fine. You can leave, Eugene. I'll take care of her."

Eugene nodded in agreement before he turned his attention to Jewel. "Come over for dinner tonight."

Chapter 825

'Sure!' Jewel signed with her hands.

After Eugene left, Olivia wrote a prescription and asked Sophia to procure the medication. At the same time, Olivia stared at Jewel. "Out with it. What happened?"

Jewel didn't imagine that Olivia could figure out that she had lied, and she took a while to pacify her emotions before whisking out her phone and typing, 'Alex's mom came to meet me today and told me to have some self-awareness. She said I couldn't be of any help in the company and forbade us from dating, so I should stay away from her son. Not only that, she even didn't allow me to talk and called me shameless for clinging on to her son. God, I was furious! She's bullying me because I can't talk!'

Olivia's face turned solemn. "Why did she say those things about you?"

Jewel shook her head in response. 'I don't know. She called me out of the blue and even told me to come up with an excuse to leave Alex.'

Olivia could feel her fury rising after listening to Jewel's account. She can't even imagine herself in Jewel's shoes, especially when Jewel couldn't speak up for herself at that time. "Didn't you argue with her? Tell her to ask her son who's the one doing all the pestering!"

'I called her hateful and said that Alex will be a bachelor sooner or later because of having a mother like her. Then, she wanted to slap me,' Jewel typed.

Olivia chuckled and retorted, "That's the way! You can't just sit there and listen without defending yourself. So, what if she's an elder? An elder should act like one and not throw their weight around just because of their seniority."

'When I first found out that she brought up Alex as a single mother, I kinda admired her. Now I know that it's utterly twisted for her to revolve around her son like he's her entire world. She'll regard all women who get close to her son as her enemies,' Jewel added.

"That's an accurate conclusion," Olivia agreed with a firm nod.

'Fortunately, you have a kind mother-in-law,' Jewel wrote.

"Yes, and your godmother is kind too," Olivia said, and they giggled. "What did you do, then? Did you resign?"

'I'm not that foolish to stick around after what just happened earlier. What should I do if she takes me as a woman coveting her son again? I don't want someone to lash out at me while pointing at my nose once more!'

Olivia couldn't help but note with concern, "But Alex may not let you go."

'Why wouldn't he let me go? His injuries have healed and I've cared for him long enough. I don't owe him anything anymore, and I even gave up the salary that I was owed. Whatever it is, I'm not going back there. Aren't you going to start filming in a few days? I'll come with you,' Jewel typed.

"That's great!" Olivia exclaimed, utterly delighted by her suggestion. "Eugene doesn't have to get me a bodyguard, then. With both of us combined, we'll be invincible!"

'Why do you need a bodyguard?' Jewel asked in bewilderment.

"Guess who came to my studio today?" Olivia asked. "Christoff."

Jewel was so shocked that she didn't type a word and voiced her concerns, "Why did he come here?"

"It's precisely because we don't know his motive that Eugene decided to hire a bodyguard for me," she replied.

'Their home base is in Southeast Asia. So, what's he doing here in Summer City? Is he here for revenge because we caught his assassin the last time?' Jewel asked.

"That is my suspicion as well," Olivia answered seriously.

'Then, you better be care—' Before she could finish typing, her phone started to ring, and when she saw the familiar name, she decisively hit the red button.

"Was that Alex?" Olivia asked.

Jewel nodded. "What should I say?"

"Write him a message. If you don't want to return to his company, tell him that I invited you to join my filming crew," Olivia suggested.

Jewel nodded as she immediately started writing, 'My throat feels unwell, so I came to look for Olivia.'

Chapter 826

The reply came almost instantly. 'What happened to your voice?'

'It's nothing. Olivia said it's a little inflamed, and I'll be okay after taking some medication. Also, you should look for another bodyguard.'

'Are you quitting?' Alex asked.

'Yeah, Olivia is in danger, and she will start filming in a few days. I would like to accompany her,' Jewel replied.

'Okay. Where are you now?'

'I'm with Olivia.'

'In her studio?'

'But we're going out to buy some medications and supplements later.'

'I'll wait for you at the studio.'

Jewel didn't reply to his texts because she didn't know how to break the news of her resignation to him. So, she typed on her phone and showed the screen to Olivia. 'Let's go to your office. If he comes over, tell him that I went home.'

Sure enough, Alex appeared at Olivia's studio less than an hour later, but only Olivia was in the room.

He swept his gaze across the studio and looked in suspiciously. "Where's Jewel?"

Olivia took a seat calmly. "She went back."

"She already went home? Is she alright?"

Olivia cast him a chilly look. "What are you asking about?"

He was confused by the cool reception as he responded honestly, "I meant her voice. Isn't her throat inflamed?"

"Yeah, it's inflamed," she answered.

Then, he slid into a seat in front of her. "Is she okay? Will it affect her voice in the future?"

She nonchalantly replied, "We'll only know after she takes the medication and observing her condition."

"She didn't take any alcohol or spicy food. So, why is her throat inflamed all of a sudden?" Alex inquired.

"All kinds of factors could be a cause of inflammation. Anxiety, excitement, anger, and speaking a lot could cause discomfort. Her throat is still healing, after all," a stoic Olivia commented.

"Anxiety and anger? What's making her anxious, and why would she be angry?"

Olivia threw him a dirty look. "I'm just saying that those are the factors that could cause discomfort in her throat."

The more Alex thought about it, the more worried he became and he sprang to his feet. "I'm going to check on her at her place," he said and headed out.

Olivia didn't stop him, and after a few minutes, Jewel came out of her office.

Olivia didn't turn her head as she spoke, "He still cares about you very much."

'So what?' Jewel gestured in sign language.

In the evening, she took the elevator with Olivia to have dinner at Olivia's place, completely unaware that Alex was still waiting in vain in front of her door.

When Alex left Olivia's studio and went to her place, it was a little past 4.00PM. He waited for a long while and eventually checked the time on his watch, which showed that it was already past 9.00PM.

He was startled at how time flew so quickly as he scrambled to his feet in a hurry. Did I fall asleep without realizing it? Otherwise, how did time pass me by so fast? Where is she? Her phone is switched off and she's not home either. Did something happen to her?

At the thought of this, he broke out in cold sweat as he was terrified by his own thoughts. He desperately clutched his phone as he phoned Olivia's number.

Thankfully, she quickly answered, "Hello."

"Olivia, do you know where Jewel is?" Alex asked in a panic. "I came to her place after I left your studio and have been waiting ever since, but I haven't seen her yet. Could she be in an accident?"

On the other end, Olivia remained silent for a moment before she said, "Are you still at her place?"

"Yeah," he answered and pressed the doorbell. "Is she home but not opening the door for me?"

"Come over to my place, then," she invited, utterly resigned by the duo's antics.

"Okay," Alex replied and hung up. He didn't bother with the lift as he took the staircase to level 59 where Olivia had already opened the door for him.

"Did you just sit there and wait? Didn't you give her a call?"

"I did, but her phone is not switched on," he said, changing to a pair of indoor flip-flops and walking in. The second he saw Jewel at the dining table, his eyes lit up, and a smile spread across his face. "Why

are you at Olivia's place? I waited in vain for a few hours at your place," he whined.

Chapter 827

'Olivia invited me here for dinner,' Jewel answered in sign language.

It appeared as though she was the only one in Alex's eyes now, and he said while pacing toward her, "I was at Olivia's studio, and she said that you went home. Since then, I've been waiting at your place. How's your throat?"

Jewel shook her head. 'I'm fine.'

"There's food in the kitchen. So take your fill," Eugene said.

Alex turned to him with a frown. "I'm having dinner at your place. Can't you prepare more food generously?"

"I didn't plan your share at all," Eugene huffed.

However, Alex wasn't a petty person. "It's okay. This is enough food for me," he said and sat down next to Jewel. "Let me take a look at your throat, Jewel. Why did it become inflamed?"

When she recalled the incident earlier today, a wave of awkwardness rose within her as she replied in a perfunctory manner, 'I'm fine. Just a little worked up.'

He gazed at her with unconcealed worry before directing his attention to Olivia. "Is she okay, Olivia?"

Olivia took a deep breath at the sight of his earnest eyes. Although the things Stefanie said were frankly out of line, Alex wasn't a bad person. At least he genuinely cared about Jewel, or else he wouldn't have waited outside her house until now.

"It's nothing. She'll be fine after taking some medication and supplements."

"Have you taken them yet?"

'I'm going to prepare it in a while,' Jewel promptly answered.

"It's not ready yet? I'll help you to prepare it in a bit," he said, stuffing the food on the table into his mouth like a whirlwind.

=Jewel furrowed her brows slightly as she rejected him, 'It's okay. I can do it myself.'

"I'll help you," Alex said.

Jewel cast a pleading look at Olivia, who shrugged helplessly.

In less than five minutes, Alex placed his fork down and removed himself from the table. "Let's go. It's 9.30PM now, and the supplement needs forty minutes of prep time. So by the time you finish eating, it will be very late already," he said, grabbing her hand, but right after he got a hold of her hand, she snatched it out of his grip.

He was startled by her actions as he looked at her. "What's wrong?"

'Nothing. You should go home. I can manage by myself,' she answered.

He was utterly wrong-footed when he finally noticed her distancing herself from him. What's up with her? he wondered and peered at Eugene and Olivia, who were both wearing complicated expressions.

After he thought it over, he decided to compromise. "Okay. I'll visit you tomorrow."

'You don't have to run all over the place for me. I'm fine,' Jewel gestured. Then, she said goodbye to Olivia and Eugene and left without a backward glance.

Alex stared at her retreating figure and reckoned that something must have happened. Otherwise, she wouldn't treat him this way. Although she had always been very formal with him, she hadn't been this

firm before. In addition, he could clearly feel that she was drawing the line with him.

He didn't hesitate to voice his suspicions to Olivia and Eugene, "What's up with Jewel?"

Olivia remained silent as though he shouldn't have bothered asking as she cleared away the cutlery, and he shifted his gaze to Eugene instead.

Eugene stole a glance at her before deciding against saying something incriminating. He wanted to help Alex, but he was rightfully worried that she would be upset if he did.

He didn't even need to ask to know that she would side with Jewel, so he could only feign ignorance and mumbled, "Why don't you ask her directly?"

Alex exclaimed with eyes as wide as saucers, "Are you serious? Wasn't I asking the whole time? But she doesn't want to say anything!"

"Do you think we have any idea when she doesn't want to say anything?" Eugene snapped, glaring back at him.

An anxious Alex looked toward the couple before him desperately as he begged, "We're friends, aren't we? Do you guys want to see us break up?"

Right then, Olivia walked out of the kitchen and pursed her lips before shattering his dreams. "You make it sound as though you two are dating."

Alex immediately pulled out the big guns and stared at her with puppy eyes. He even headed into the kitchen to help her clear the table without any prompting as he persuaded her, "Olivia, I'm sure you know something. Tell me, what's wrong with her?"

Chapter 828

"Inflammation at her throat," Olivia said.

Alex immediately flipped out. "Why is she ignoring me because of an inflamed throat? Tell me what's happening!"

"Did she ignore you?"

"She didn't let me hold her hand."

"Isn't it normal that she's not letting you hold her hand since there's no relationship between the both of you?"

"It's abnormal. Stop gaslighting me and just tell me," Alex urged anxiously.

As Eugene watched Alex tagging behind Olivia like a puppy, a tinge of jealousy wrapped Eugene's heart and he grumbled, "Why are you following my girlfriend around?"

"I'll follow you instead if you give me the answers I want," Alex said, approaching him.

However, Eugene shoved him aside in annoyance. "That's it. Go home quickly and stop putting us in a dilemma!" he said, gesturing to the cell phone with his eyes.

For a moment, Alex was startled, but he soon understood what Eugene meant. Since when did Eugene become so sneaky?

Hence, he went along and huffed, "Fine, I'll find out by myself." After that, he pretended to be frustrated and stormed off.

Alex definitely paid attention to the small details in his act. However, one could say that he was acting from his heart.

While Olivia was washing dishes in the kitchen, Eugene sent a text to Alex when her guard was down. 'Your mother went to look for Jewel and said terrible things to her.'

After he sent the text, he deleted it and made sure he left no traces of his crime.

As Eugene was feeling guilty and worried that Olivia would discover his brief betrayal, he quickly went to her. Yet, before he even approached her, he grinned and said, "My love, did I do well?"

North shook his head solemnly and returned to his room with his laptop in his hands. Hmph! He's asking for a compliment after he just sent a tip-off, huh? Does Daddy take Mommy for a fool?

Just as he expected, Olivia threw Eugene an icy look. "What did you do well?"

"I stood on the same line with you and stood against outsiders," Eugene promptly replied.

"Who's the outsider?" she asked.

He stared into her eyes and didn't dare to say more as he felt that Olivia knew something was up.

"I asked you a question," she pressed on.

"It's Alex."

Olivia nodded. "It's not every day that you acknowledge Alex as an outsider," she said while pointing a clean spatula at him. "Then, why didn't you remember that you were standing against an outsider when you sent him a text?"

Eugene was shocked that he was exposed within seconds as he took a step back. "How did you know?"

She removed the spatula away from his vicinity as she snorted snobbishly, "Alex wouldn't have left so readily if you didn't."

Eugene immediately understood the situation as he hastily smiled in an attempt to get into her good graces. "Yes, he's too annoying, so I just wanted to chase him away as soon as possible."

Olivia glared at him. "I'm not telling you anything tomorrow."

Eugene became antsy at her attitude and took a surreptitious glance at the living room, only to see that North had already sensibly vacated the premises. Once he ascertained that the coast was clear, he pulled Olivia into his arms and whined in a pitiful voice, "I'm sorry, and I promise I won't overstep my boundaries in the future. I'm just worried that if we don't tell him, he'll pester us until past midnight. So, I decided to tell him in exchange for peace."

She sized him up, utterly unimpressed. "But his mother will assume that Jewel ratted on her."

"Is it important what his mother thinks? Whatever it is, she has already regarded Jewel as a useless person in her mind. So, why does she need to compromise for the mother and son to have a good relationship?"

What he mentioned made sense. "You're right, but Jewel didn't say anything, so we can't allow her to shoulder the blame for this. Furthermore, she definitely doesn't want to see Alex and his mother have a falling out because of her."

"This will happen sooner or later," Eugene pointed out. "And it's better that it happens sooner rather than later. If his mother hadn't obstructed them back then, they wouldn't be in this situation now."

Chapter 829

"I don't care what happened in the past," Olivia said. "But if he hurts Jewel again due to his lack of care, I won't let him off the hook! So, hurry and send him another text to remind him of this."

Eugene wrapped his arms around her waist and probed, "Are you still mad?"

"Of course, I am. You traitor."

"Will you give me a chance to turn over a new leaf?"

"I'll put you under observation for fifteen days," she declared as she shoved him aside. "Hurry, or I will double the observation period."

He sulked as he muttered, "Why are you giving me either an observation or probation period? When will we become official?"

"How can you even ask me that after what you've done?" Olivia chased him away mercilessly. "Go home and sleep at your own place!"

"I'm not tired, though!" a desperate Eugene pleaded.

"But I am, and I want to sleep."

"You can go to bed," he said. "I'll leave in a while."

Olivia was utterly speechless and highly amused at his attitude. This was the most challenging thing on her to-do list every night—chasing Eugene out of the house.

"Release me, then. I'm going to sleep."

Eugene stared piteously at her while she strode to her room. Then, he asked, "Are you really going to bed? Come on, spend some time with me."

"Look for your buddy if you want to waste your time with inane chatter."

"Aren't you going to supervise me when I text him?"

"Both of you are saying different things in front of me and behind my back. There's no way I can keep an eye on you."

After she said that, she didn't hesitate to close her bedroom door, leaving Eugene alone in bewilderment. He lowered his gaze at his phone as his gander gradually turned into a piercing glare while he sent an annoyed text to Alex. 'Damn you! My girlfriend is ignoring me now!'

On the other end, Alex read the text and reckoned that Olivia most probably decided to snub Eugene because Eugene had tipped him off, but he couldn't be bothered to reply to the text.

He didn't expect that his biggest worry had become a reality. For the past few days, he had kept an eye on Stefanie and realized that she hadn't brought up anything since that time when she saw Jewel. It was as though nothing had happened.

Alex even prepared a draft so that he could discuss things with Stefanie calmly, pushing her into an agreement either via an emotional manipulation or with reason.

However, after waiting for a few days, she didn't make a move and he gradually lowered his guard as he thought that she didn't recognize Jewel.

He didn't expect that his mother was probably waiting for him to lower his guard down so that she could make an unexpected move.

This made him angry and worried at the same time.

Jewel's throat had only just improved and while he didn't know why it was suddenly inflamed, he knew it had something to do with his mother.

The car drove into No. 8, Imperial Villas Garden, and came to a stop before he marched into the house angrily.

"Why are you back so late, Mr. Alex?" the butler, Frank, asked in surprise.

"Hi, Mr. Rodriguez," Alex greeted and asked. "Is my mom asleep?"

"Not yet. She's watching TV in the living room," Frank answered respectfully.

Alex went in with large strides and immediately zeroed in on Stefanie, who was seated on the couch and laughing hysterically.

When she noticed him, she hurriedly beckoned for him to take a seat. "Come over, Alex. Oh my, look at this girl. She's hilarious!"

Alex remained expressionless as he walked over, picked up the remote control on the couch, and switched off the TV.

Stefanie's laughter came to an abrupt stop and she lifted her head to look at him in astonishment. "What are you doing?"

He didn't bother sitting down as he looked down at her imperiously. "Did you look for Jewel?"

A frown appeared on her face at his words. "Did she tell you about it?" Then, she snorted and added, "What kind of person is she? I even told her not to tell you. This woman is so precious to you, but isn't she trying to draw a wedge between us now?"

"She didn't tell me anything, and I'm not blind. Furthermore, she already resigned," he said coldly.

Chapter 830

Stefanie's face was awash with relief when she heard about Jewel's resignation, and she reached out to pull Alex over. "Okay, sit down and talk. Let her resign, then. If you prefer female bodyguards, I'll look for one for you tomorrow."

Alex jerked away from her hold and demanded, "You recognized her since day one, didn't you?"

The look on her face turned solemn in an instant. "Yes, but I don't get it. Aren't there any other women in this world? Why do you only like her?"

He narrowed his eyes at her furiously. "Yes, she's the only woman I like! It doesn't matter whether it was eight years ago or not; she's the only one I like!"

Stefanie immediately jumped from the couch, raised her hand, and slapped him across the face. "Have you been enthralled? Have you forgotten the embarrassing things she did in the past? What makes you think that I'll allow someone like that to be my daughter-in-law?"

Alex held his cheek as his eyes turned bloodshot. "What happened back then must have been a misunderstanding. Speaking of which, if you hadn't opposed our relationship so strongly, I wouldn't have left her in order to coax you, thus causing such a consequence!"

Disbelief appeared in her eyes as she stared at him. "Are you blaming me? Was I the one who pushed her into another man's arms in the hotel? I'm your mother, Alex. How dare you repay my love with callousness!"

"Yes, you're my mother, and I've always respected and appreciated you. Even Jean from eight years ago and Jewel from eight years later told me the same thing. They have requested me to treat you well.

But, Mom, put yourself in her shoes! She had always tried her best to gain your approval, but you're the one who refuses to see her efforts the entire time and insists on walking in blind and bigoted."

Stefanie's eyes turned red-rimmed from anger. "Did I ask for any of that? From the very beginning, I asked only one thing from her, and that is to stay away from you. Who would have thought that she would be like a leech? I drove her off eight years ago, but she returned with a new name eight years later!"

A knot appeared between Alex's brows. "Did you drive her away eight years ago?"

Panic flashed past her eyes as she tried to deny her claims, "I didn't."

"Why?!" he yelled. "Why did you drive her away?!"

The muscles in her neck tensed as she snapped, "There's no reason. She's not good enough for you. That was the case eight years ago and even more so now!"

He staggered backward, utterly disappointed in his mother. "I didn't know you could be so unreasonable. What do you mean she's not good enough for me? Only the individuals involved in a relationship would know if they're compatible with each other, so I know she's the one for me. How can you draw such a conclusion based on twisted facts? Do you know what happened to Jean after you drove her away? Did you see the aftermath with your own two eyes? She has amnesia, forgot everything that happened between us, and became a mute. She had only recently received treatment and could finally give voice to her thoughts. I have no idea what you discussed with her today, but it must have been unpleasant enough that it caused her throat to turn worse. She's such a nice girl. Why can't you accept her?"

"Nice?" Stefanie screamed shrilly, wholly furious. "Just look at how tightly she gripped my hand. Look at the bruises! You have no idea how strong she is."

"And I'm confident that she was only defending herself," he retorted hotly.

She was so incensed that she barked, "Alex Road! Is she the only woman in your heart?"

"Yes!" Alex snapped angrily. "Mom, if you truly love me as much as you claim, stop causing trouble for her!"

Stefanie finally confronted him and asked with indignation, "What if I strongly oppose this?"

Alex took another step back with disillusioned eyes, but his voice was exceptionally calm. "Then, you're forcing me to draw a line between us!"